

Appl. No. : 10/090,414
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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph number 0025 with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0025] As mentioned above, the wafer carriers 27 of the illustrated arrangement are standard front opening unified pods (“FOUPs”). As such, the wafer carrier ports 40 are preferably configured in accordance with SEMI standard E 62-0997, which are provisional specifications for 300-mm Front Opening Interface Mechanical Standards and are incorporated herein by reference. Moreover, the stacked carrier ports 40 preferably are configured as described in U.S. Patent ~~Application~~ No. 6,042,323, which is also incorporated herein by reference. Accordingly, in the illustrated arrangement, the shuttle 36 positions the wafer carrier 27 in front of the wafer carrier ports 40. After the wafer carrier 27 is in position, the wafer carrier ports 40 open the doors of the wafer carriers 27 such that the wafers within the wafer carrier 27 can be removed through the carrier ports by a wafer handling robot 50.